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Date: JUL 10 1958

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300 'Privateers' Volunteer

Answer N.Y. Bookseller's Call for Cuba Expedition

NEW YORK (UPI)—A deceptively mild man sat sipping clam chowder in a Third Ave. fish house and spoke of the soldiers of fortune rallying to his call.

Lyle H. Munson, who has wartime background in the OSS and CIA in Formosa, said he has had about 150 calls and an equal number of letters from people volunteering to join a privateers' expedition to free captive Americans in Cuba and elsewhere.

ONE MAN FROM Leesburg, Va., suggested banding together to buy the obsolete aircraft carrier Enterprise, just sent to a scrapyard, and sailing in against Fidel Castro.

Munson may have had tongue in cheek when he wrote Congress seeking letters of marque and reprisal authorizing him under a clause of the Constitution to "lease, equip and staff a seaworthy man of war to liberate these pirate-held American citizens." But he is deadly earnest in believing something should be done and quickly.

MUNSON ADMITTED THAT all his "volunteers" were not taking the project too seriously. One wrote that he was a member of TTT (Typical Tropical Tramp). He said he was "too old, slow, ignorant and yellow" to be a fighting man but would cook

and act as "psychological counselor."

A retired Marine colonel wrote: "Sign me up . . . letter of marque or not."

An Australian telephoned Munson from Sydney.

"He said he had rounded up a crew of 50 and that they wanted to come aboard," Munson said.

MUNSON OWNS a mail order book company and has a wife and two daughters, 17 and 5.

Only word Munson has received from Washington is a letter from House Speaker Sam Rayburn saying the matter would be referred to committee.

CPYRGHT